

Minutes: CSBG Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting

Meeting purpose To ensure the opinions and position of the network via the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Advisory Committee (CAC) and CSD are considered and discussed in a public open forum.

Date, time, and place Date: February 11, 2009
Time: 10am – 2pm
Place: CSD – Sacramento, California

Attendees	<u>Members</u> San Mateo Tehama Colusa, Glenn, Trinity Santa Barbara Napa Sacramento Employment & Training Central Valley Opportunity Center North Coast Opportunities Merced California Human Development Center for Employment Training Rural Community Assistance Corp Community Design Center Santa Cruz Butte Northern California Indian Development Council Kings County Cal/Neva San Joaquin San Bernardino Madera San Luis Obispo Amador – Tuolumne ACCES Orange County Sonoma Kern County	<u>CSD Attendees</u> Lloyd Throne Renee' Webster Hawkins Pamela Harrison Ronn Kaiser Diamond Longjel Michael McDonald Michelle Brown Sylmia Britt John O'Keefe Shellene Evans Susan Mello
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Approval of previous minutes Pat Nickols moved that the minutes from November 12, 2008 be approved.
Tim Reese second the motion.

Topics discussed

The table below identifies the topics discussed in the meeting and the person who led each discussion.

Topic	Discussion Leader
Roll Call and Approval of Minutes	
Director's Report	Lloyd Throne
Roundtable – Stimulus Money	Renee' Webster-Hawkins
CSD Partnerships	Helga Lemke
Associations Update	Attendees
Community Services Division News	Pamela Harrison
NASCSP Conference Highlights	Leslie Taylor

Director's Report

Lloyd Throne provided a recap of the major landmarks in the history of the community action movement, calling this stimulus package one of the four biggest events. He stressed the themes of opportunity, responsibility and expectations, with transparency being one of the biggest expectations. It looks likely that agencies receiving stimulus funds for operational budgets will be required to post their plan for spending on www.recovery.gov and the priority will be on job creation and job protection. The following recommendations were made for the agencies: 1) Start collecting data now on job creation and job protection 2) Meet with local community colleges and chambers of commerce now to plan a strategic response to the stimulus spending around job creation 3) Analyze and strengthen relationships with local county staff; their funding is likely to be heavily slashed and they will want to cover programmatic gaps with CAA's 4) Be prepared for more media scrutiny: train staff to respond appropriately and be sure to keep key stakeholders up-to-date regularly so they don't learn something through the media.

Roundtable Discussion

Renee' Webster-Hawkins facilitated the roundtable discussion regarding the stimulus package. The discussions included the following information.

1) CAA's have a tendency to use windfalls to cover longstanding holes but we need to be more strategic 2) The Senate bill has language that indicates half of the State's 10% set-aside must go to enrolling families in relief programs so CAA's may want to increase or create family enrollment programs around Medi-Cal, food stamps, etc 3) Santa Cruz is focusing on green jobs and recruiting workers from neglected populations 4) Butte is rebranding their energy program as a green initiative 5) Tehama is focusing on their WIB, Youth Build and their community college's new green curriculum 6) Spring conference will have a green track 7) Sonoma has a partnership with local solar company as part of Youth Build 8) Renee' said we still don't know how much the base funding will increase 9) The stimulus

funding is finite but the impact will be long lasting and the CAA's have a chance to demonstrate that they are an effective poverty fighting machine. 10) Helga said that the funding for broadband issues in the stimulus package will be a potential area for CAP's to expand. Tuolumne is working on Telemedicine for rural areas. 11) San Jose is waiting to hear about a proposal they sent to Commerce for greening their headquarters. 12) The Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan from the State may become a reality now with money for housing, hospital and school retrofitting. 13) Green projects in the pipeline months away are going to be too late for the stimulus money; agencies will need to make an impact with more immediate jobs. 14) Public service jobs, like the WPA are needed. Offer more jobs at your agency and have a list of neighborhood jobs and projects that can turn into jobs. 15) Mendocino has lots of people living off the grid and tiny businesses. They are trying to build a network of these businesses so they can collaborate and take on larger jobs together. They also have water issues in their region and are piloting a rain catchment project and working on graywater permit process issues. They want to emphasize local businesses and stimulate the Local economy. 16) Los Angeles is encouraging jobseekers to pursue the city college options of one or two week training programs rather than semester-long options. 17) Local business owners need to be trained on how to handle government contracts – curriculum? 18) Agencies need a state-wide lead on building collaboration and writing MOU's with community colleges and other agencies. 19) One agency shared a success story about recruiting youth transitioning out of foster care and CCC youth to take care of local issues. 20) Lloyd Throne pointed out that money is now being funneled to communities through WIB's and encouraged people to join and participate. 21) Oscar Chavez/Sonoma has created a social networking website as a vehicle for collaborative communication. The address will be sent to the Cal/Neva reps. 22) Humboldt commissioned studies on regional industries and job forecasting and is focused on partnerships to create a strategic plan. 27) Buddy Ray shared that David Bradley/NCAF said we need to emphasize four things to be successful in implementing this stimulus package; jobs, partnerships, results and accountability. 28) Renee Webster-Hawkins announced that the Partnership Advisory Taskforce will be reactivated. 29) Shelly Hance commented that county agencies are being pressured to contract out their work to save money.

**CSD
Partnerships**

Helga Lemke introduced the staff from North Coast Opportunities. Morgaine Colston, Executive Director of North Coast Opportunities highlighted the programs at the agency. The Mendocino CAP is promoting a local food movement in the area. Some of the programs supporting this local food movement are: a gleaner program to reduce food waste; they help local farmers markets go year round and are setting up EBT machines at the markets so customers can pay with food stamps; they pay volunteers in

vouchers to the farmers markets; they are organizing cooking classes; work is being done with local farmers so they can fill the demands of the local grocery stores; they have a network of community gardens that build transferrable skills in the youth participants; and they have a ReBuild Store where people donate items for a tax deduction and then builders buy the items for a reduced price and the income goes into other programs. Patty Bruder, Program Director, Miles Gordon, Community Gardens, and Tami Bartolomei, Volunteer Network from North Coast Opportunities gave an excellent presentation on the agency and their programs.

**Association
Update**

Cal/Neva will hold their Annual Conference and Poverty Summit in San Francisco on April 15-17, 2009 at the Argonaut Hotel. Featured speakers are David Bradley, NCAF and Don Mathis, National CAP.

**Community
Services
Divisions News**

Pamela Harrison gave an update on the Community Services Division. The IS Surveys are due March 1, 2009. CSD won the "Cleanest Data" award at the NASCSP conference. CSD will restart the Trading Places program again and a sign up sheet was distributed requesting agencies to volunteer to host a CSD CSBG staff person at their agency. CSD is projecting to host staff from the network beginning in September. . The new Community Action Plan (CAP) will be issued on Feb. 17th and is due back to CSD by June 30th.

Pamela introduced the new staff. John O'Keefe, Field Operations Manager and Field Representatives, Michelle Brown, Sylmia Britt and Mike McDonald are now on board in the CSBG Division.

**NASCSP
Conference
Highlights**

Leslie Taylor attended the NASCSP Conference and said that the atmosphere was positive and excited about the new money coming to the programs, however, there was anxiety about the accountability that would be expected. Yolanda Butler, the acting Director at OCS said that there will probably be a new Director in the summer.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45pm.
